Increase in multi-drug resistant strains of Tuberculosis

*193. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOUTRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study conducted recently by the Planning Commission has revealed that there has been an alarming increase in the incidence of new and more lethal multi-drug resistant strains of tuberculosis in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action Government propose to take to meet this menace;

(d) whether Government propose to take urgent steps to ensure comprehensive and free eradication of this disease;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) and (b) Planning Commission has not conducted any study on multi-drug resistant strains of Tuberculosis.

(c) The major cause of drug resistance is inadequate treatment received by patients. The Government propose to ensure patient compliance through regular and uninterrupted supply of drugs and regular follow up of patients.

(d) and (e) The Government propose to implement the revised strategy of Directly Observed Treatment of Short Course (DOTS) with World Bank assistance in a phased manner. Under the programme, drugs are supplied to the patients free of charge.

(f) Does not arise.

Press report regarding different rules for PSUs, Private Firms

*194. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared on 'Business and Finance' page of 'Statesman', Calcutta dated the 14th April, 1996, captioned 'Different rules for PSUs, Private Firms';

(b) whether the net worth of the private company referred to in the report was shown positive by using its revaluation reserve to off set the total loss;

(c) if so, whether it is in contravention to the proviso of SICA and whether SBI has brought it to the notice of BIFR; and

(d) if not, whether the same practice can be followed by sick CPSUs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that as per the audited balance sheet of Ispat Profiles India Ltd. as on 31.03.1995, the company has wiped-off the accumulated losses aggregating Rs. 204.18 crores out of revaluation reserves. The company has obtained a legal opinion to the effect that revaluation reserves can be used for setting off accumulated losses. However, SBI has not accepted the above stand of the company and has advised the company to make a reference to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

(d) Does not arise.